

Education Amendments
House Education (DR15-1034; version 1.2) and Senate Education / Governor (DR15-1033; version 1.3)
Side by Side Comparison
02/11/2015 (DRS) – *draft!!*

HEC Sec. No.	SEC/GOV Sec. No.	Topic
1		Supervisory Districts: Supervisory Unions become Supervisory Districts in FY2018 <i>except</i> if (1) a district “opts out” through a process involving State Board (SBE) and voter approval <u>OR</u> (2) districts present an alternative plan to the SBE and voters for approval – <i>e.g.</i> , districts that operate K–6 and pay tuition for remaining grades could become one district, regardless of whether they are currently in the same SU <u>OR</u> (3) districts that provide tuition vouchers to all resident students in all grades K-12 are formed into one SD or into several regional SDs
2–3		Tuition: Prohibits tuition payments to out-of-state schools <i>except</i> in certain border areas where all students in one or more grades attend the non-Vermont school <i>ALSO</i> , the two interstate school districts are considered Vermont districts and the schools within them are “VT schools” even if the school building itself is located in NH
4–6	2–3	Small School Support: Both SEC/GOV and HEC drafts limit the small school support grant to districts that are eligible due to “geographic necessity” – transition out over 3 years Primary differences: <u>SEC/GOV</u> : SBE determines geographic necessity; additional grant for rapidly declining population in subsection (c) repealed <u>HEC</u> : Secretary determines geographic necessity; subsection (c) left intact because hadn’t discussed issue before drafted bill RED Merger Support Grants: <u>SEC/GOV</u> draft pays for current 5-year term; <u>HEC</u> draft pays forever

HEC Sec. No.	SEC/GOV Sec. No.	Topic
7–8	4–6	Declining Enrollment; 3.5% Hold-Harmless Provision: <u>SEC/GOV</u> : Repeals provision entirely over a three year period by changing percentage from 96.5 (current) to 90 (FY2017) to 80 (FY2018) to Repeal (FY2019) <u>HEC</u> : Removes “tail” from calculations so 3.5% is applied to the actual count in the previous year and not the inflated count (as is currently done) – Provides 3-year transition to avoid cliff.
	7	Redistricting: Permits the SBE to add a petitioning district to an existing union school or PK–grade 12 district upon request of petitioning district after a process involving all districts and voters
9–10	8–9	Superintendent and Principal Duties: Both drafts give principals hiring / firing authority at the school-level. In addition, <u>SEC/GOV</u> draft: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the superintendent is the “leader of systems improvements” for SU and member districts (2) superintendents negotiate & enter into health insurance contracts for SU & district employees (3) requires the superintendent to give principals “advice and consent” before the principal nominates a candidate to the school board for a position requiring a license
	10	Data Driven Partnerships / Quality Assurance Tools: Amends 16 V.S.A. § 165 concerning districts meeting or progressing toward EQS and district’s own continuous improvement plan
11–15		Yield Proposal and Property Tax Adjustment Lag: (Mark Perrault or Peter Griffin can testify)
16–17		Ballot Language: Requires Warning for budget to include (1) what the total budget means in per equalized pupil spending and (2) the percentage increase / decrease in that spending from prior year
18	1	Moratorium: <u>SEC/GOV</u> : Moratorium on any legislation that adds duties or costs to districts and SUs; JFO conducts fiscal analysis of bill if believes it may increase costs <u>HEC</u> : Moratorium on any legislation that increases education property taxes; JFO conducts fiscal analysis of bill if believes may increase education property taxes
19		Special Education Payments: Requires Secretary of Ed to develop a proposal for an alternative Special Ed funding method, which might be based in part of ADM